

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 DHA-02 CU-02 SP-02  
/049 W

-----281621 074405 /45

O 281451Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4632

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2763

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: ARREST OF SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVISTS IN FRONT OF EMBASSY

1. SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVIST BENJAMIN FAYN AND UNIDENTIFIED COMPANION WERE ARRESTED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ENTER EMBASSY FEBRUARY 28, DESPITE FACT THAT THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY CONSOFF WHO PROTESTED ARREST. FAYN HAD VISITED EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION FEBRUARY 23 TO TELL US THAT HE AND APPROXIMATELY 40 OTHER JEWISH ACTIVISTS HAD COMPILED 150 PAGE REPORT OF VIOLATIONS OF CSCE FINAL ACT WHICH REPORTEDLY OCCURRED AT TIME OF DECEMBER SYMPOSIUM ON JEWISH CULTURE. FAYN WANTED TO FORWARD MATERIAL TO US CSCE COMMISSION THROUGH EMBASSY.

2. FAYN WAS INFORMED THAT MATERIALS COULD BE LEFT AT EMBASSY WITH NO PROMISE OF DISPOSITION. HE AGREED TO THESE CONDITIONS AND RETURNED TO EMBASSY AT APPROXIMATELY 5:00 P.M., MOSCOW TIME FEBRUARY 28. HE AND UNIDENTIFIED COMPANION WERE PROBABLY CARRYING THE MATERIAL. ON FAYN'S REQUEST, CONSOFF MET THEM OUTSIDE EMBASSY. (THIS IS CUSTOMARY PRACTICE FOR CALLERS TO CONSULAR SECTION WITHOUT LETTER OF INVITATION OR SOVIET EXTERNAL PASSPORT).

3. AT GATE T EMBASSY, MILITIAMAN ASKED FAYN AND COMPANION FOR PASSPORTS. CONSOFF STATED THAT THEY WERE WITH HIM AND HAD BUSINESS AT EMBASSY. APPROXIMATELY 15-20 UNIFORMED AND PLAINCLOTHES MILITIA SUDDENLY SURROUNDED FAYN AND COMPANION AND STUFFED THEM INTO

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TAXI WHICH PULLED UP ON STREET, DESPITE VERBAL ATTEMPTS BY CONSOFF TO PROTEST.

TWO OR THREE OTHER VOLGA CARS FULL OF PLAINCLOTHES PERSONNEL WERE ALSO IN EVIDENCE.

4. APPREHENSION OF FAYN AND COMPANION WAS CLEARLY PRE-PLANNED SET UP. IT IS, MOREOVER, FIRST TIME IN OUR

MEMORY WHEN SOVIETS WERE ARRESTED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ENTER  
EMBASSY IN COMPANY OF EMBASSY OFFICER.

5. WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW EXACT COMPOSITION OF MATERIAL  
CARRIED BY FAYN AND COMPANION, IT WILL PROBABLY IMPLICATE  
40-50 PROMINENT SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVISTS IN "ANTI-SOVIET"  
ACTIVITIES. DURING VERBAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN CONSOFF AND  
GOONS WHO ARRESTED FAYN AND COMPANION, UNIFORMED  
MILITIA REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT "THEY ARE CRIMINALS."

6. EMBASSY PLANS PROMPT AND FIRM PROTEST  
OF DENIAL OF ACCESS.  
TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SHUM, UR, US, CSCE, (FAYN, BENJAMIN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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